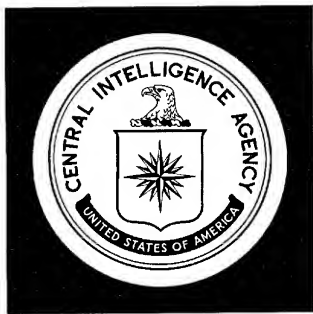


CIA/SAVA /WVIND 720909



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending September 9 1972

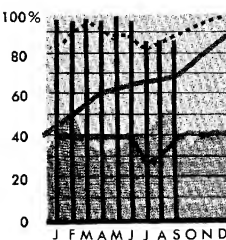
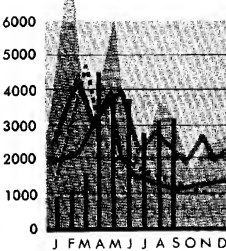
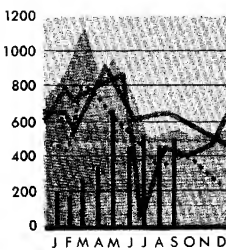
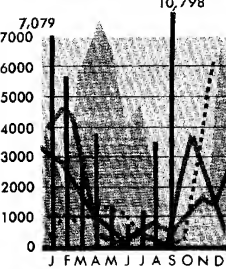
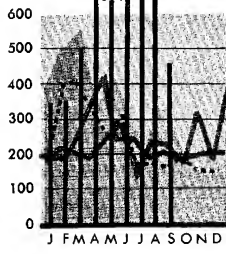
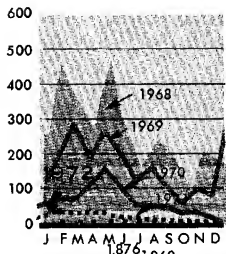
NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

For the President Only

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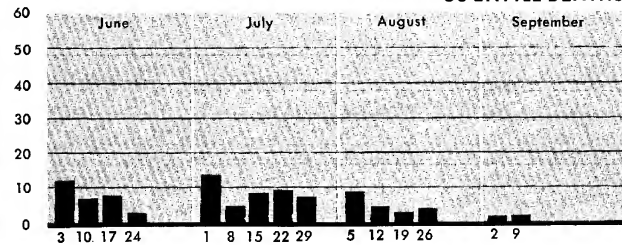
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1972
Weekly average for each month

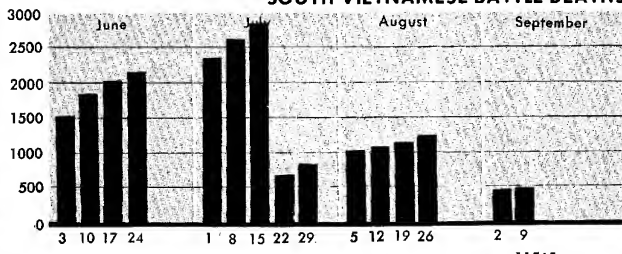


JUNE 1972 — SEPTEMBER 1972
Weekly data as reported

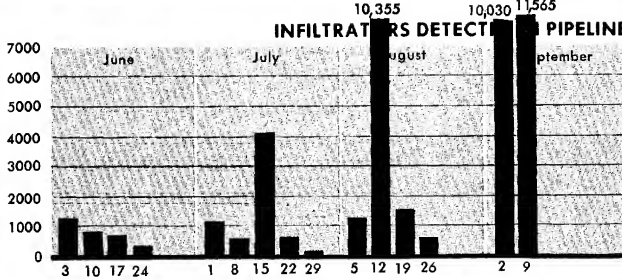
US BATTLE DEATHS remained the same as last week- 1.



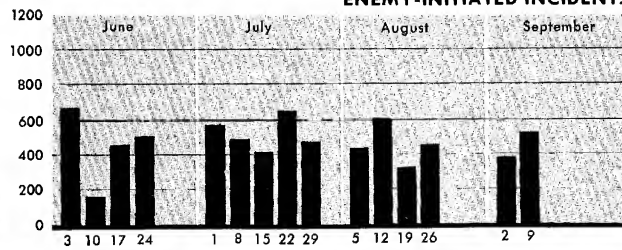
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS totaled 483 this week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.



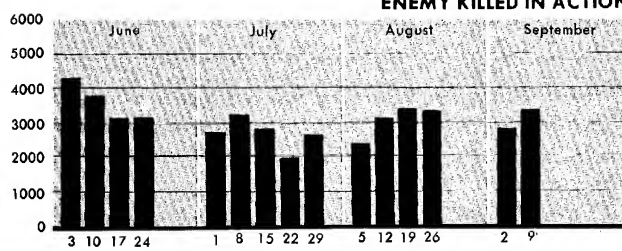
INFILTRATORS DETECTED include three small, special purpose, 16 "gap fill," and 7 regular groups totaling 11,565 personnel. The estimate of infiltrators destined for Cambodia - South Vietnam since 1 October 1971 now stands at 161,900 - 163,900.



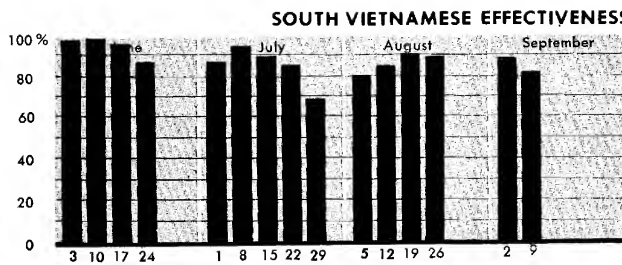
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS rose to 518 from the 379 of last week.



ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION increased from last week's 2,744 to 3,449.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces declined from last week's 88% to 81%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity


Military Region 1 of South Vietnam remained the most active area of fighting during the past week as South Vietnamese forces launched a major assault to clear the enemy from all of Quang Tri City. They encountered stiff resistance, but have moved to the walls of the Citadel and finally eliminated several complexes of bunkers in the southern part of the city which protected a vital enemy supply line. The North Vietnamese, however, are still attempting to move reinforcements into the city. South of Danang, the Communists maintained their pressure on Que Son while forcing GVN forces to withdraw from Tien Phuoc district town. Enemy activity throughout the remainder of South Vietnam was light and restricted to harassing attacks against lines of communication and isolated outposts. At the same time, forward deployments of additional elements of the 320th NVA Division in Pleiku Province and an NVA regiment toward Quang Ngai City indicated that increased activity in these areas was probable in the near future. Enemy activity in the Delta during the week was at its lowest level since March, but enemy forces still concentrated in Base Area 470 in western Dinh Tuong Province remained a threat to the northern Delta. Moreover, evidence continued to mount that elements of the Phuoc Long Front (formerly the NVA First Division) were attempting to re-establish their presence in the Seven Mountains area of the western Delta and were planning future activity in Kien Giang and Chau Doc Provinces.

The situation in Cambodia became somewhat more unsettled during the week as rice shortages in Phnom Penh led to several short-lived public disorders, in which both military and civilian personnel participated. Relative calm returned to the city over the weekend, following the institution of tight security measures and the distribution of about 450 tons of rice from the government's own limited stockpiles. The shortages resulted both from the government's lethargic approach to obtaining rice imports and from the closure by the Communists of Route 5, which runs from Phnom Penh to the major rice producing area of Battambang Province. A long-delayed operation to reopen this Route is now being reinforced with additional government forces. Elements of two FANK infantry brigades, supported by armored vehicles, have moved up Route 5 to Kompong Chhnang to augment 14 FANK battalions already preparing to begin a new clearing operation. To the southeast of Phnom Penh, following the government's withdrawal from Kompong Trabek on 9 September, the Communists gained control of Route 1 from about five miles east of Neak Luong to Svay Rieng.

General Vang Pao's current offensive in north Laos, PHOU PHIANG, remained stalled as bad weather during the week continued to hinder air support and resupply efforts. Friendly forces operating both southwest and north of the Plain of Jars are still meeting stiff enemy resistance. In south Laos, there was an increase in NVA activity in the Khong Sedone sector, while farther east, Lao Air Force strikes west of Ban Phon in Saravane Province on Saturday are estimated to have killed 15 enemy troops and destroyed a tank. A secondary explosion from the attack produced a 1,200 foot high fireball.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

During the past week, some 11,600 North Vietnamese personnel were added to our estimates of NVA infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia. Of these, 3,565 were newly detected infiltrators on their way from North Vietnam to the northern provinces of South Vietnam. The other 8,000-odd men were in 16 newly accepted "gap fill" groups which had departed North Vietnam earlier this spring and summer. The estimated total of infiltrators who have left North Vietnam for either South Vietnam or Cambodia since 1 October 1971 now stands at 161,900 - 163,900 men.

25X3
NSA

Flooding conditions in southern North Vietnam are making it difficult for enemy forces to move supplies into the MR 1 area of South Vietnam. Intercepted messages have revealed a shortage of food among several combat units in the area, and the reduction this week in the average number of artillery rounds fired per day suggests that ammunition shortages also prevail. North Vietnam has, however, instituted another "transportation offensive" to support its forces in this area. Scheduled to get underway on 3 September, the offensive was delayed several days by Typhoon ELSIE but apparently has now begun. Its purpose undoubtedly is to alleviate the shortages mentioned above and to build up stock-piles before the seasonal rains restrict movements even further. To the west, in the Lao Panhandle, the rainy season is about to end, and intercepted messages and pilot sightings indicate that the Communists have begun their normal repair of the route structure in preparation for the dry season logistical efforts.

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